

This Week in Agriculture

August 7-13, 2005

Governor calls for Idahoans' state quarter designs

Governor Dirk Kempthorne is inviting Idahoans of all ages to present their ideas for the design of the Idaho quarter, which will be released in 2007 as part of the 50 State Quarters Program.

Governor Kempthorne encouraged Idahoans to put their most creative talents and state pride into their work to create an enduring image for the coin worthy of the legacy of the state.

"Idaho is truly a gem among the states. The spirit of our people is unmatched. Our industrious heritage is rich. The pristine beauty of our mountains, lakes, canyons and rivers is world famous," Kempthorne said.

"Idaho shines from the Rocky Mountain bighorns and proud white pines on the high alpine ridges to the crystal clear



**Governor
Kempthorne**

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State Department of Agriculture responds to grasshopper problem in Lewis, Idaho, Nez Perce counties

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is responding to a grasshopper infestation in Idaho, Lewis and Nez Perce counties by deploying 35,000 pounds of bait to growers in the area. It is unusual to encounter a grasshopper infestation of this magnitude in this region of the state.

Lewis County Extension Agent Ken Hart notified the department of the problem on Friday, July 15, and ISDA's Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Control Program immediately responded by transporting 17,500 pounds of bait to Grangeville. The department followed that with another 17,500 pounds of bait. Les



Charles and Jane Pratt observe the grasshopper damage in their hayfield. The damage is easy to see; brown patches mark the territory that the grasshoppers have been foraging. The green area in the background is largely untouched.

Tschohl, ISDA's grasshopper/Mormon cricket program manager, said growers have complimented the department for responding so quickly to the infestation. Thousands of grasshoppers are on the ground, and populations may be between 15 and 45 per square yard, Tschohl said.

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The infestation starts north of Kooskia and runs south along both sides of the Clearwater River to Highway 13 six miles east of Grangeville. So far, the infestation has not migrated to the Camas Prairie.

Grasshopper infestations are more common in the Snake River Plains of southern Idaho and the Owyhee mountain range.

This infestation likely manifested itself because of the mild winter and extremely wet spring. This particular infestation involves the redlegged grasshopper, which can be found throughout North America, except for high mountain altitudes and



A closer view of the damage. It's hard to see, but dozens upon dozens of grasshoppers are in this picture.

frigid climates.

For more information about ISDA's grasshopper/Mormon cricket program, visit our Web site, <http://www.idahoag.us>.

To report a problem with

grasshoppers or Mormon crickets, call our hotline number at (208) 685-6977 for western Idaho, or (208) 733-5119 for Twin Falls County and counties eastward.

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streams and great sturgeon in our deep desert canyons. Just like our state, the Idaho quarter will stand out among the rest."

The U.S. Mint has issued general guidelines for the design of the quarter.

Priority consideration will be given to designs that are enduring representations of Idaho. Inappropriate design concepts include, but are not limited to, logos or depictions of specific commercial, private, educational, civic, religious, sports or other organizations whose membership or ownership is not universal.

Submissions for the Idaho quarter design must include a written description – a design narrative. Illustrations are welcome but will not be considered as part of the formal submission since the U.S. Mint specifications do not call for any visual elements.

Once the design narratives are received and the submission postmark deadline of September

9 has passed, the Idaho Commission on the Arts will evaluate the narrative design ideas and narrow them down to 10 finalists, which will then be presented to the Governor for his review.

Governor Kempthorne will then forward up to five to the U.S. Mint, where artists will create designs from the narratives. Governor Kempthorne will then select the final design, which will require approval of the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

"I'm confident that Idahoans will submit some very creative and magnificent designs," Kempthorne said. "The evaluation process will not be easy, but in the end, we will have a beautiful reminder of what makes our state so great."

- A narrative is required by the U.S. Mint; however, illustrations in addition to the written description of the design elements will be accepted. Historical summaries, if applicable, are welcome.
- Written descriptions must be

no more than 150 words in length.

- Simplicity should be emphasized; designs that include too many elements become cluttered and are discouraged.

Multiple submissions from single individuals are welcome.

Design descriptions must be postmarked by September 9, 2005 and should be mailed to the following address:

Idaho Quarter
Idaho Commission on the Arts
P.O. Box 83720
Boise ID 83720-0008

Design descriptions may also be emailed to:

Idahoquarter@arts.idaho.gov

For online forms or more information go to:

<http://www.arts.idaho.gov/quarter>

Livestock assistance deadline announced

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Idaho livestock producers in 14 counties have until September 9, 2005, to sign up for the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP), announced Wayne Hammon, state executive director for the Idaho Farm Service Agency (FSA). Signup for this 2003/2004 program began on March 14, 2005, and applications and all supporting documentation must be filed by the ending date of September 9, 2005.

Hammon further stated, "this program will provide much needed assistance to livestock producers in the approved Idaho counties who suffered a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing due to disaster conditions ranging from excessive drought, disease, insect infestation, to flood

and severe storms. To be eligible for LAP, the grazing lands must be located in a county that was declared a primary disaster area under a Presidential or Secretarial declaration and have suffered at least a 40 percent grazing loss." The counties in Idaho meeting this criteria for the 2003 grazing year are: Bannock, Bear Lake, Butte, Caribou, Cassia, Custer, Elmore, Franklin, Lemhi, Nez Perce, Oneida, Power, Teton, and Twin Falls. Twin Falls County also suffered a greater than 40 percent grazing loss in 2004. Twin Falls livestock producers must choose only one year to receive benefits as LAP assistance cannot be received for more than one year.

Producers must have owned or leased the livestock during the

applicable LAP period or for at least three months. Eligible livestock include: 1) beef and dairy cattle; 2) sheep and goats; 3) buffalo, beefalo, elk, and reindeer when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle; 4) swine (if grazed); and, 5) equine animals (horses and mules) when used commercially for human food or kept for the production of food or fiber on the owner's farm.

Hammon encourages livestock producers with grazing lands in the approved 14 counties to contact their local FSA county office for complete eligibility requirements.

The application and all required supporting documentation must be filed and complete by September 9, 2005.

Organic potato field day set for August 8

An organic potato field day will be held at Sunset Butte Organics, west of Buhl, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, August 8.

Sales of certified organic foods have been growing by 20 percent in recent years and more farmers are considering the opportunities in organic production. Last summer, the Idaho Potato Commission and Potato Growers of Idaho held an informational meeting on the opportunities in organic potatoes.

In June, Potato Growers of Idaho, University of Idaho researchers, organic potato farmers, the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides and Idaho State Department of Agriculture met to consider the needs of new growers transitioning to organic potato production. To help possible transitioning

growers, the group decided to hold a field tour on organic potato farming.

This tour provides an opportunity for potato growers considering transition to organic potato production to learn about the certification process and the organic potato cropping system. The field day will include the following topics:

- Mike Heath and other Magic Valley organic potato growers will discuss rotation crops, fertility, pest management and marketing.
- A former organic inspector, John O'Connor, will discuss what to expect during an on-farm inspection.
- University of Idaho researchers Mir Seyedbagheri, Juan Alvarez and Nora Olsen will share their

work on organic potato fertility, beneficial insects and organic sprout inhibitors.

A lunch featuring local organic beef, fruits, and vegetables will be provided.

Please RSVP by August 3, 2005 with Keith Esplin at (208) 785-1110 or pgike@cablone.net or Jen Miller at (208) 850-6504 or millerjen12@aol.com.

The tour is sponsored by Potato Growers of Idaho, the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides and Rural Roots.

Support for this field day also comes from the following businesses: Frontier Natural Products Co-op, Magic Valley Compost, Mountain States Oilseeds and Pillar Butte Seed.

Schwieder elected chairman of US Wheat Board of Directors

Boyd Schwieder of Idaho Falls, Idaho was recently elected as the US Wheat board of directors chairman during the July meeting held in Oklahoma (U.S. Wheat Associates is the industry's export market development organization, working in 90 countries on behalf of America's wheat producers). Other officers elected included: Leonard Schock (Montana) as vice chairman, and Ron Suppes (Kansas) as secretary-treasurer.

Keith Kisling (Oklahoma) is now the past chairman of the USW board of directors and becomes chairman of the budget committee.

Chairman Boyd Schwieder is a graduate of Utah State University. He and his family dry

land farm and run a cow-calf operation on 5500 acres east of Idaho Falls. The Schwieders grow some organic wheat, and are currently working to develop new niche markets.

"It's a pleasure and an honor for me to serve as chairman of US Wheat Associates," said Schwieder. "As Chairman, I'll be focusing on strengthening our core markets."

Asians consume 1 billion bushels of the equivalent of hard white wheat annually. Right now Australia is supplying most of that wheat. "I believe Hard White wheat is a developing market for US wheat growers," said Schwieder. "We just need to keep working on getting over the hump."

Building relationships is one thing Schwieder is known for in

the wheat industry. He has cultivated relationships with wheat buyers from all over the world. "It's important to build trustworthy relationships with our foreign customers," commented Schwieder. "That is one thing I want to continue to stress and work on in my position as US Wheat Chairman."

Schwieder served on the Idaho Wheat Commission for ten years and has been actively involved in the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) for over 30 years. He was president of the IGPA and served on the board of directors of the National Association of Wheat Growers. Schwieder is also actively involved with the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the Agriculture Committee.

Potato Growers of Idaho releases new IMP manual

Potato Growers of Idaho has completed revisions to the "Best Management Practices & Integrated Pest Management Standards Checklist for Quality Potatoes."

The program was first developed in 2004 as a way for growers to score their IPM practices and promote environmentally sound practices that reduce reliance on pesticides.

The checklist addresses potato management decisions sequentially through pre-planting, planting, growing season, and harvest. Practices related to scouting, field management, weeds, insects, disease, soil & water management, and storage are

addressed in the manual.

A grower using the manual scores higher points for practices that reduce potatoes impact on the environment, such as longer rotations, green manure crops, proper scouting, and many other sound potato production management practices.

To receive a free copy of the Best Practices & IPM Standards Manual, growers can call the PGI office at (208) 785-1110 or e-mail pgike@cableone.net. Growers who return the completed manuals to PGI at the end of the season will receive \$50.

The top three scoring growers will also receive

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